On Monday, January 23rd, WTS-GNY held its 37th Annual Meeting. It was a wonderful evening to highlight and toast a number of the Chapter’s very accomplished members and their great achievements. Following welcoming remarks from WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster, there were five awards that were presented and then a keynote speech by Stephanie Dawson, Chief Operating Officer of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The Ray LaHood Award was given this year to MTA Long Island Railroad President Patrick Nowakowski for his tireless efforts to encourage LIRR employment membership and involvement in WTS. Indeed, in 2015, the agency hosted a large WTS professional development event at their offices thanks to his leadership and efforts.

The Member of the Year Award was presented to Sutapa Bhattacharjee, Principal Transportation Planner at NJ Transportation Planning Authority, for her tireless work in establishing the NJ Transportation YOU program with Newark Science Park High School. Like its NY counterpart, the NJ program will support eight committed high school students each year with carefully planned information sessions, tours, and other curriculum developed in conjunction with school counselors.

The Employer of the Year Award was given to Arup, a global professional services firm with over 1,000 employees in the Americas focusing on infrastructure projects. The company received the award this year for their many internal programs that promote the advancement of their women employees.

The Innovative Transportation Solutions Award went to NYC Department of Transportation for its work on the Queens Boulevard Safety Improvement Project, an effort involving almost every division of the

From left: WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR); 2017 Member of the Year Sutapa Bhattacharjee, WTS-GNY Transportation YOU Co-Chair and Principal Transportation Planner, NJ Transportation Planning Authority; Barabara Kearse, Deputy Compliance Officer, MTA LIRR.
This was a multi-year complete street design of Queens Boulevard, a 170-foot-wide corridor, often dubbed “The Boulevard of Death.” In 2015, Mayor de Blasio announced the Vision Zero Great Streets program, committing $100 million to Queens Boulevard between Roosevelt and Eliot Avenues for capital improvements. Led by a team of female planners and designers, NYC DOT reimagined this corridor to significantly improve safety with every type of roadway user in mind. Improvements included safer crossings, pedestrian refuges, more crosswalks, and protected bike lanes. These lay the groundwork for future capital investment and have led to fewer pedestrian and cyclist crashes and no fatalities since 2014. Additionally, accessibility and walkability have improved and cycling volumes have more than doubled.

The Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award was presented to Denise Berger, Assistant Chief Engineer at the Port Authority of NY and NJ (PANYNJ). Ms. Berger, who has almost 30 years of experience, manages a department of over 500 engineers. She also has been an active participant in WTS events in the past. In addition to her experience and commitment to the advancement of women in the field of transportation, she received the award for her creation of the Port Authority Women’s Council (PAWC), a formally chartered employee resource group aimed at fostering the advancement of women within PANYNJ.

The evening concluded with Stephanie Dawson’s informative keynote speech. Ms. Dawson, who as Chief Operating Officer at PANYNJ, ensures the implementation of policies, procedures, and practices that enhance coordinated action across the Agency. She also advances initiatives that enable the seamless common delivery of vital services. She is responsible for Aviation; Tunnels, Bridges, and Terminals; Port; and PATH Rail Departments, as well as common services provided by the Operations Services Department and the Office of Storm Mitigation and Resilience. Ms. Dawson began her career at PANYNJ delivering Technology and Security Projects and also had responsibility for Building

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Come one, come all and bring your friends! 2017 is the 40th Anniversary of WTS and the fourth time the annual conference will be held in NYC! Join us May 17-19th at the Brooklyn Marriott in Downtown Brooklyn. We anticipate a record-breaking crowd of transportation professionals and industry experts discussing our system that never sleeps. Don’t miss the fabulous trailer for this event! Click here to view.
Management Systems, Revenue Systems, and ITS projects. Later, she provided oversight of the Capital Program, Operations Programs, the Public Safety Department, Office of Emergency Management and Security Program Management. She also created the Agency Project Management Office and recently sponsored the creation of the Agency Operations Center. Before joining PANYNJ, she was a Director at the NYC Department of General Services and an operations manager in banking. A retired Army colonel, she is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom. She is currently the Treasurer on the WTS International Board of Directors.

Ms. Dawson spoke animatedly about PANYNJ’s future. “It’s a complicated multi-modal, multi-modal business, and it’s hard work – but we certainly recognize the need and value of being a good neighbor, and we are strengthening our policies and procedures to try to do even more,” she stressed. Ms. Dawson then went on to underscore the importance that all of the PANYNJ assets need to be in a state of good repair to “reliably move people and goods throughout the region.”

“My business at the Agency is about integration across the Lines of Business and synchronization of shared Agency services. Safety and security are underpinnings for our businesses and traffic management. Other operations must be a seamless part of that service delivery, as well as ensuring that we recruit and retain talent to manage our operations and technical departments. It is noteworthy that recent succession planning efforts have reaffirmed our commitment to operational and technical excellence as well as diversity and strong community engagement.”

Her talk then focused on the proposed 10-year capital plan and long-term PANYNJ investment highlights, including:

- Completion of the Bayonne Bridge Project, a $2.1 billion project that raises the roadway from 151 to 215 feet, thereby allowing passage of neo-Panamax ships.
- Completion of the Goethals Bridge

NYC DOT won the Innovative Transport Solutions Award. The project team, from left: Navjodh Singh, Emily Gallo, Samantha Dolgoff, Ryan Russo, Chiragi Amin, Nicole Garcia, Olivia Gibbeson, Ann Marie Doherty, Kessia De Leo, Lily Gordon-Koven. WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR) is on far right.

Assistant Chief Engineer PANYNJ Denise Berger (center) won the The Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award. PANYNJ staff members from left: Rochelle JoyFrom, Carmen Rein, Rumana Haque, Sadia Janjua, Denise Berger, Cathleen Mahoney, Jennifer Bates, Stephanie Dawson, Jose Rivera, Portia Henry, and Leticia Caviness.

Project, a $1.5 billion bridge replacement carried out as a public-private partnership, the first of its kind in the northeast for surface transportation, and carries a 10 percent DBE commitment.

- Completion of LaGuardia Airport Central Terminal modernization. This includes re-envisioning the terminal as well as strengthening and developing links to adjacent terminals. It also involves the expansion of transportation access to the airport and within the airport too. Lastly, it will significantly increase airside space

continued on page 4

Chief Operating Officer at PANYNJ Stephanie Dawson served as the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting.
and provide world-class passenger ame-
nities.

- Advancement of the PANYNJ Bus
  Terminal Replacement. This includes the
  completion of short-term improvements
  while alternative designs are assessed
  and the planning and implementation of
  the longer-term solution is put in place.

- Modernization of Terminal A at Newark
to accommodate emerging trends in the
business, to accommodate growth and
capacity needs and enhance connections
to ground transportation.

- Planning for PATH to EWR or Newark
  Airport.

- Planning for the modernization/advance-
  m ent of airport AirTrains.

- Leadership on the Gateway Project,
  which is perhaps the largest new pro-
  gram, with bi-state and national support
  and impact. This program will provide a
  comprehensive program of strategic rail
  infrastructure improvements designed
to enhance current services and increase
capacity which will allow the doubling
of passenger trains running under the
Hudson River.

- JFK Visioning and subsequent planning
  for agreed-upon rehab/replacement of
critical infrastructure.

Ms. Dawson’s enthusiasm and command
of PANYNJ’s ambitious agenda is palpable.
Hearing her describe the planning, policy
development, design, and development of all
of these programs and more, illustrates the
tremendous complexity, the many challenges
in terms of coordination and integration both
internally and externally, and the significant
rewards of providing a strong and durable
transportation network in the NY/NJ region.
It also demonstrates the high demand for
“qualified employees to do all the work that
is necessary to keep transportation moving in
not just our Agency, region and nation, but in
the world.”

From left: Cherise Myers, NYCT; Mandrep Singh Aron,
Arora and Associates.

From left: Doreen Barthodus, Marine Tiger Technologies; Stephanie Dawson,
PANYNJ; Veronique “Ronnie” Hakim, Interim Executive Director, MTA; Marcia
Shapiro, President, Marine Tiger Technologies; Stacy Luke, TWU Local 100.

From left: WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Aimee Jefferson
(NJTPA); Linda Travis, retired; WTS-GNY Director-At-Large
Ella McLeod (NYCT); Sherise Myers, NYCT.

From left: WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Ani Toncheva (Wilson Ihrig);
Emily Gallo, NYC DOT; WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR);
Alyssa Picchardo, RPA.
2016 Annual Gala
BY ADRIENNE ZICKLIN KANTER

WTS-GNY chose the perfect night with its clear skies to hold the chapter’s annual gala at Battery Gardens at the foot of Manhattan. After an hour of vibrant conversation, mixing and mingling and with the sunset over the New Jersey skyline as a backdrop, the crowd gathered for an animated awards presentation. Karen Rae, Woman of the Year, was toasted by Polly Trottenberg, NYC DOT Commissioner, and this year’s seven scholarship winners were announced by Molly Campbell, Director of the Port Commerce Department at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Other speakers in the all-star line-up were Polina Knaster, WTS-GNY President, and Ronnie Hakim, President of NYC Transit.

Ms. Knaster enthusiastically initiated the awards ceremony by introducing Ronnie Hakim, the eighth person and first woman in the role of NYC Transit president (now Interim Executive Director, MTA), and past Executive Director of New Jersey Transit. Hakim spoke animatedly about the value of WTS and pointed out that it has become such a vital part of the transportation field that men in ever-greater numbers are attending WTS-GNY events. Indeed, with well over 350 in attendance that evening, the gala was the largest in WTS-GNY’s history.

Hakim, in turn, introduced Molly Campbell, who oversees the management and operation of the major marine terminal facilities within the Port of New York and New Jersey, and who arrived at the Port Authority recently from the Port of Los Angeles where she had been Deputy Executive Director. Campbell had the honor of presenting some of the future women leaders in transportation as she introduced the 2016 scholarship winners and highlighted some of their many accomplishments (read more about them below). Together, these young women will have received more than $20,000 towards their continuing education thanks to WTS-GNY.

The evening continued with Polly Trottenberg at the podium. Trottenberg, who in addition to her role as NYC DOT Commissioner is also an MTA Board member, joked that “fortunately, those roles never conflict,” before introducing Woman of the Year, Karen Rae as a seasoned leader in the field as well as a good friend.

Since 2015, Rae has been senior advisor for Innovative project delivery...continued on page 9
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ery for Empire State Development, leading a team working to develop new best practices guidance. A nationally-recognized transportation expert with over 35 years of experience, Rae previously served as Governor Cuomo’s Deputy Secretary of Transportation, a role in which she oversaw the budget, policy, and the Governor’s initiatives within the State’s transportation portfolio, including the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), NYS Thruway/Canals Corporation, MTA, Department of Motor Vehicles, Port Authority of NY and NJ and NYS Bridge Authority. Other highlights in her storied career include her position as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, where she managed the federal high-speed rail initiative and developed national freight, and those as director and general manager of other transit systems throughout the country. In 2010, Rae also was named WTS International Woman of the Year.

Before the close of the awards ceremony, there was a solemn moment as Susan Baer was remembered. 2012 WTS-GNY Woman of the Year, Baer distinguished herself as a true leader, having spent most of her career at PANY&NJ, culminating as the author.
This past summer, WTS-GNY offered its third annual Learn from a Leader series, a roundtable-style program featuring members who have reached senior positions in a variety of areas across the field of transportation as they describe their experiences as they have progressed in their careers. Over the course of two months, the chapter had the opportunity to hear from seven highly accomplished women, including Yvonne Lopez-Diaz, HNTB Vice President, Human Resources Director; Lisa Navarro, Senior Project Engineer, NJ Turnpike Authority; Dana Hecht, Director of Capital Program Management, NJDOT; Anita Miller, MTA Chief Employee Relations and Administrative Officer; Debbie Chin, LIRR Executive Director for Positive Train Control; Beth DeAngelo, Deputy Area Manager and Vice President, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff; and Emily Gallo, Chief of Staff, NYC Department of Transportation. Each of them talked candidly about the challenges and rewards they have encountered and what skills they have relied on to succeed.

BETH DeANGELO:
Beth DeAngelo serves on the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) International Advisory Board and the WTS Northeast Regional Council. She is the immediate Past President of WTS’s Greater New York Chapter (GNY). Ms. DeAngelo has provided leadership for a variety of programs in NYC to advance women in transportation. She spends her days delivering planning and design consulting services as a Vice President of WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff. Earlier in her career, she also served as President of chapters of the Professional Engineer’s Society of New Jersey and the American Society of Highway Engineers.

As Deputy Area Manager of WSP |

Parsons Brinckerhoff’s New York City office, she focuses on NYC business development. Ms. DeAngelo serves as the Advisor for WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff’s NYC Developing Professional Network for emerging professionals and oversaw a pilot mentoring program in 2014 to support career development. With 30 years in the transportation industry, Ms. DeAngelo has served as Project Manager for a variety of infrastructure projects, and designed traffic engineering facilities for many public and private sector improvements.

YVONNE LOPEZ-DIAZ:
Yvonne Lopez-Diaz is a vice president at HNTB Corporation. She currently serves as the firm’s HR Director for the Design Build organization, as well as the NY Office Growth Champion. Prior to this role, Ms. Lopez-Diaz spent 10 years supporting HNTB’s Southeast...
LEARN FROM A LEADER

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Division. She also has served as HR Director for the firm’s Northeast and West Divisions. In her role as NY Growth Champion, Ms. Lopez-Diaz is focused on supporting the growth and development of the rapidly growing NY Office and its people. In addition, she works with senior leadership to ensure the firm is organized to win and deliver the biggest projects.

Ms. Lopez-Diaz has more than 30 years of experience in the human resources field, the last 16 of which have been spent in various HR leadership roles with HNTB. She provides senior level strategic HR support and works closely with office and division leadership to ensure that decisions regarding business results are fully integrated with decisions about people.

For more than a decade she has served on the WTS boards of Central Florida and Greater New York. As part of this, she chairs the organization’s Scholarship Committee. Ms. Lopez-Diaz was recently appointed Chair of the WTS Greater NY Glass Ceiling Committee where she will lead the research and development of a study to benchmark the leadership roles of women in the metropolitan New York area and identify whether the glass ceiling is a barrier to their growth and success. The results of this study will identify potential policies or programs to support the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women in transportation.

As a result of her engagement and impact on the transportation industry, Ms. Lopez-Diaz was recently recognized by WTS and the ENO Center for Transportation as one of ten “Women to Watch.” This honor recognizes women who are making major professional contributions through mentorship, engaging volunteer networks, and seeking outside-the-box solutions to address today’s biggest transportation challenges.

EMILY GALLO:
Emily Gallo, Chief of Staff at the NYC Department of Transportation, which provides for the safe, efficient and sustainable movement of people and goods throughout the five boroughs. NYC DOT has over 5,000 employees, an operating budget of over $900 million, and a five-year capital plan of $9.1 billion. Ms. Gallo works to advance key agency priorities like Vision Zero and Select Bus Service, and she supports Commissioner Trottenberg’s role on the MTA Board. Previously, she served as Chief of Staff at the NYC Taxi of Limousine Commission, where she spearheaded the borough taxi program to bring legal taxi service to residents living outside the Manhattan Central Business District. Prior to joining the Taxi & Limousine Commission, Ms. Gallo worked as a transportation policy analyst on Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC, a long-term sustainability plan to reduce carbon emissions 30 percent by 2030. Ms. Gallo has a Masters in City Planning from UPENN and a B.A. in American Studies from Yale University. She lives in Washington Heights with her husband and two young daughters.

ANITA MILLER:
In April 2015, Chairman and CEO Thomas F. Prendergast appointed Anita L. Miller to the newly-created position of Chief Employee Relations and Administrative Officer for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). In this role, she is responsible for setting strategic direction for all labor relations and human resources activities throughout MTA Headquarters and the MTA agencies. As the chief labor contracts negotiator for the MTA, Ms. Miller is also responsible for briefing and advising the MTA Chairman and the MTA Board on all significant labor-employment-related issues, negotiating over 60 collective bargaining agreements, drafting labor relations policies, and representing the agency before the National Mediation Board and the Presidential Emergency Board.

During her career in public transportation, Ms. Miller has held the positions of Vice President of Labor Relations, Assistant Vice President of Research and Training, Labor Attorney and Labor Relations Hearing Officer. Ms. Miller’s prior experience includes serving as Chief of the Employee Disciplinary Division for the New York City Housing Authority and Labor Relations Analyst for Beth Israel Medical Center.

In February 2000, Ms. Miller received a Proclamation from the City Council of the City of New York for implementing “lasting change” in both the labor and legal advocacy arenas during her 12-year tenure as a legal advocate with Legal Services for New York City, Brooklyn Branch, union delegate and then Co-President of the Legal Services Staff Association.

Ms. Miller presently serves as an Advisory Board Member for COMTO-New York Chapter and WTS-GNY.

DEBORAH CHIN
Deborah Chin is a 28-year public transit professional. In August 2015, she was appointed the Executive Director for Positive Train Control (PTC) at the Long Island Rail Road. PTC is a federally-mandated safety system that is being implemented to prevent train collisions and eliminate operator error. She previously worked at New York City Transit (NYCT) where she was instrumental in the deployment of many different computer-based systems, such as Communications Based Train Control (CBTC), Automatic Train Supervision (ATS), “countdown clocks,” and Help Points on station platforms. Ms. Chin holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Rochester, and a Master’s in Public Administration from...
LEARN FROM A LEADER  
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CUNY Baruch College. She is a Professional Engineer in the State of New York, and has been a part of the WTS Mentoring Program for the past four years. She resides in Yardley, Pennsylvania, and has three grown sons.

LISA NAVARRO: Lisa Navarro has 17 years of experience in the design of highway projects. She worked in the private sector for five years before joining the New Jersey Turnpike Authority in 2004. Ms. Navarro currently is a Senior Project Engineer with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority serving as the Project Manager for the $160 million NJ Turnpike Interchange 14A Improvements Project in Bayonne and Jersey City and the Transition Coordinator for the $0.5 billion Authority’s Facility Program. She has worked for the Authority for more than 12 years, having the good fortune of serving as the Authority’s Deputy Program Manager for the $2.5 billion Interchange 6 to 9 Widening Program, which opened its new roadways to traffic in November 2014. Ms. Miller graduated from the Pennsylvania State University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in New Jersey. She currently resides in Cranford with her husband and two young girls, ages 2 and 4.

DANA HECHT
Dana Hecht began her career at the NJ Department of Transportation in November 1991. She spent the first few years in Planning in the Bureau of Corridor Analysis. She then moved to Funding for eight years where her responsibilities included the supervision and analysis of the Department’s Capital Program and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, along with development strategies to ensure effective use of transportation funds. In 2004, Ms. Hecht joined the Director’s Office of the Division of Project Management. Initially, Ms. Hecht assisted in the day-to-day operations. For five years as Assistant, she had functioned as the Deputy Director. In July 2015, Ms. Hecht took on the role of Executive Regional Manager for Team B in Project Management, and in December, was appointed Director of Project Management in Capital Program Management. She is responsible for managing more than 100 employees and for organizing, overseeing and implementing the cradle-to-grave delivery of all CPM projects for NJDOT. The capital program annually delivers more than $600 million in construction projects.

Summer Cruise

On Monday, July 18th, after the threat of stormy skies WTS-GNY enjoyed a sunny and successful summertime member’s appreciation cruise.

From left: WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Ani Toncheva (Wilson Ihrig); WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Keri Cibelli (AKRF).

From left: Erin Lybec, Deanna Lu, Patricia Masi and Christyn Binder, all from B. Thayer Associates.

WTS-GNY Membership Committee Co-Chair Lian Duan (Arup) and Deborah Chin, MTA LIRR.
Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom

BY ADRIENNE ZICKLIN KANTER

On November 17th, WTS-GNY held an entertaining and informative panel discussion moderated by Liz Levin, co-author of the book, *Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom*. It was an exhilarating opportunity to hear four pioneering women in the field of transportation tell their stories in their own words and discuss the issues that they have faced along the way.

*Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom* started as a book, a collection of eighteen profiles of women in the field of transportation who broke the glass ceiling. With profiles of the woman who ran the Federal Aviation Administration during 9/11 to the woman who helped make seat belts standard in cars, not to mention many others, it is an intimate, animated and informative series of first-person accounts of how these women stood up for themselves, achieved a great deal, and paved the way for future professional women in the field of transportation.

The accomplished panelists, all of whom are featured in the book, included Shirley DeLibero, Rina Cutler, Mary Jane O’Meara and Dana Hook. Ms. DeLibero is the former chairman and CEO of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas, from 1999 until 2004. Previously, she had been Deputy Executive of Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and Executive Director of New Jersey Transit. Rina Cutler was Philadelphia Deputy Mayor for Transportation and Utilities. Previously, she had been Deputy Secretary for Administration for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PENNDOT); Transportation Commissioner for the City of Boston; the Director of Parking and Traffic for the City of San Francisco and the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Parking Authority. Mary Jane O’Meara is Associate Vice President, HNTB; Dana Hook, Vice President, CDM Smith; Shirley DeLibero, former chairman and CEO, MTA of Harris County, Texas; Rina Cutler, Senior Director, Major Stations Planning & Development, Amtrak; Elizabeth Levin, President, Liz Levin & Co. and co-author, *Boots on the Ground*.
President at HNTB. Previously, she had been Director of the Tobin Bridge, Massport; Acting Executive Director at the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. Dana Hook is Vice President with CDM Smith and was vice president with HNTB.

The moderator was Elizabeth Levin, co-author with Grace Crunican of *Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom: Transportation Women Tell Their Stories*. She is also President of Liz Levin & Co, a management consulting firm and a former board member of MassDOT/MBTA.

The panel discussion offered attendees even greater insight into how these women think about their work and success in spite of the sexism and other challenges they have faced. What do they each recommend? The wisdom of each of the panelists ranged from a focus on risk to work-life balance to the important skills learned outside of the classroom:

Dana Hook: “When there are opportunities and you need to get something done, you need to ignore the chaos and the anxiety. Do it by surrounding yourself with a well-rounded and talented team that also gives them the opportunity to build their careers.”

Shirley DeLibero: “Be good at what you do. And hire to your weakness, not your strength.”

Mary Jane O’Meara: “Have a good partner. Be present for your kids when you are with them. And vice versa. Don’t let the small stuff of housekeeping get in your way. Let the dust accumulate.”

Rina Cutler: You need the soft skills such as the understanding of lower case “p” politics that gives you the understanding of the internal dynamics of an organization. Also a sense of humor helps to diffuse a situation. Good listening skills are also vital.” Lastly, “Get comfortable being uncomfortable” in pursuing assignments in areas you haven’t tried before. “Otherwise, you’ll be pigeon-holed.”

The evening was filled with rewarding ideas and recommendations mixed with a healthy dose of humor. Liz Levin concluded the evening by remarking that it’s not about the panelists’ stories, but those of the attendees, many of whom are much earlier on in their careers. “It’s your turn. We are at a time of transforming technology, innovative financing, climate change and the reshaping of transportation organizations. Each of you are the talent to accomplish this.” But before everyone recessed, Shirley DeLibero added that “you all need to think that you can be what you want to be. I have a building named after me in Houston, and I didn’t even have to die.”

Mary O’Meara (left) signs book for WTS-GNY Programs Committee New York Co-Chair Luz Liddie (NYCT).

From left: Beth DeAngelo (standing), WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff; (seated) Angela Artiles, HNTB; WTS-GNY Glass Ceiling Committee Chair Yvonne Lopez Diaz (HNTB).

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

continued from page 1

Newark Park Science High School. Our highly dedicated committee chairs and members have worked tirelessly with them on how to have a strong handshake and so much else that will provide an invaluable foundation as they get started on their careers, truly an essential part of our mission.

Polina Knaster
WTS-GNY President
polina.knaster@hdrinc.com
Trending Topics

On Wednesday, November 9, the WTS Young Professionals were honored to have Lorrain Hoffman (NYCT), Nicole Hunter (HNTB) and Eunice Kim (Amtrak) as panelists at the latest Trending Topics Series – Career Advancement: Capitalizing Your Free Time. Before taking questions from the audience, these three women described how education influenced their career paths and highlighted the milestones that have shaped where they are today. Despite very different backgrounds in the transportation industry, a recurring theme for each of the panelists was a passion for what they do, prioritizing the pursuit of education, and balancing that educational interest with work and their personal lives. The young professionals in attendance at this event really benefitted from hearing these inspiring women remind us how much we can achieve with hard work, passion and by giving back to others.

From left: Panelists Nicole Hunter, HNTB; Eunice Kim, Amtrak; Lorian Hoffman-Ho, NYCT.

NJ Program Fall Dinner on Driverless Cars

BY COLLEEN CONNOLLY AND ADRIENNE ZICKLIN KANTER

What is an automated vehicle? What is a connected vehicle? How will these vehicles affect the future of transportation in New Jersey? These were the questions discussed at the New Jersey Programs’ October 26th Fall Dinner Program. This very informative event, entitled “Complete Connections: Connected and Automated Vehicles. Trends, Policy, and Applications of Connected and Automated Vehicles in New Jersey,” was moderated by C. William Kingsland, Assistant Commissioner of New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), and featured three speakers: Dr. Joyoung Lee of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Dr. Nidal Bouynaya of Rowan University, and Cathleen Lewis of New Jersey Automobile Association of America (AAA).

Connected vehicles are those that have the ability to communicate between one another or with traffic signals. An example would be a platoon of trucks that need to be kept together. The feature for this connectivity is the reduction of differences in speed among different vehicles on a corridor. When cars and trucks all operate at similar speeds, either fast, slow or somewhere in between, the road becomes safer and there are fewer collisions. The consistency in speed also allows for greater capacity on the road since vehicles can be driven more closely together. And lastly, the steady speed also contributes to lower fuel consumption.

Automation is a different phenomenon. We already can see elements of automation in vehicles that are on the road today. Both anti-lock brakes and collision-avoidance beepers are both examples of this automation. The ultimate version of an automated vehicle is Google’s driverless car. Interestingly, connectivity and automation in cars and trucks is not interdependent – the features for each of these undertakings can be pursued on their own.

Mr. Kingsland, the moderator, stressed that connected and automated vehicles are revolutionary and will change transportation much like the revolution from the horse to the automobile. He also emphasized that NJDOT must keep up with these trends and accommodate these connected and automated vehicles. When asked whether NJDOT would need to provide separate lanes for them, he confirmed that that likely would make sense.

Dr. Joyoung Lee talked about his research on vehicle connectivity and described a smartphone app that would show a driver the optimal speed at which to travel along a corridor to avoid red traffic signals. In addition, he mentioned guidance anticipated from the Transportation Research Board about regulations the State is developing for connected and autonomous vehicle safety.

Dr. Nidal Bouaynaya discussed how the Departments of Mechanical, Electrical, and Civil Engineering at Rowan University were able to develop a vehicle-mounted system that could detect and log pavement conditions such as potholes and street cracking. The system that they have created was assembled from relatively inexpensive off-the-shelf components and had an accuracy rate of over 90 percent.

Lastly, Cathleen Lewis, who is Director of Public Affairs at AAA, provided a primer on the various levels of automated vehicles starting from items such as the anti-lock brakes and collision avoidance systems that already are in widespread use and continuing on to the completely autonomous “jetson’s” vehicle of the future.

The audience had many questions. The most common ones were “when will all... continued on page 16
DRIVERLESS CARS  
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of this happen?” and “will there be a cash for clunkers buy-back program to get non-
automated vehicles off of the road?” Cathleen Lewis fielded these particular questions, saying that it would be close to 20 years before there will be a 100 percent autonomous vehicle population. And, at some point, that “cash for clunkers” is likely to become a necessity. Meanwhile, the questions are just getting underway for most of us as we approach this new frontier.

Young Professionals  
Cardboard Kayak Race

On Saturday, July 16th, the WTS Young Professionals’ Committee competed in the Waterfront Alliance’s ninth annual City of Water Day’s Cardboard Kayak Race on Governors Island. Our six participants, billed the “WTS-Making Waves Team,” applied their engineering, planning, and inspired intuition to design and build a human-sized vessel to compete in the race. On event day, all 25 teams were given 10 sheets of corrugated cardboard, 3 rolls of black grafting tape, 10 rolls of clear waterproof packing tape, and 2 hours to design and build their kayaks. The WTS team edged out competition in the first heat of the race, paddling out and back around a marker in the embayment to win first place! Although WTS-YP was defeated in the championship round, they made plenty of waves to remember!

Team Members: Alexandra Chamandy-Cook, Parsons; Portia Henry, PANYNJ; Aimee Jefferson, NJTPA; Heather Jones, HNTB; Winifred Lao, HDR; Lori Skarup.

Transportation YOU

High schoolers in both the New York and New Jersey Transportation YOU programs learned the value of a firm handshake this last December. They also learned how posture, vocal inflection, pitch, and even clothing color (navy is a particularly “confident” color choice) can impact the way that women are perceived in the working world. The training was led by Laura Katen of Katen Consulting (katenconsulting.com), who has been providing professional development seminars as one of the activities in the Transportation YOU program over the past several years. After participating in a short presentation and a series of exercises (including stretching into various “power poses” to induce confidence), the students put what they learned into practice, giving mini-presentations and role playing amongst themselves. For more information on how you can be involved in the Transportation YOU program, please contact Sutapa Bhattacharjee (sbhattacharjee@njtpa.org) for the New Jersey Program (based in Newark) or Erica Swansen (ESwansen@vhb.com) for the New York Program.
WTS–GNY Member of the Year
Sutapa Bhattacharjee

Sutapa Bhattacharjee, PhD, Principal Transportation Planner at the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority was introduced by Barbara Kearse, Deputy Chief Compliance Officer, LIRR. The following is Ms. Kearse’s introduction:

Sutapa worked with the school coordinator to develop a series of information sessions about the program last spring – including a student assembly attended by about 100 students. This assembly was then followed up by a panel discussion where about 20 students and their parents attended to hear from successful WTS members at all stages of their careers about transportation as a career these young women may want to consider. Sutapa then developed an application process and ultimately selected the eight young women in the inaugural class this year.

The program Sutapa developed includes tours, professional development, tech tool demonstration (GIS) and one-on-one mentoring for the participants. She has planned a graduation event for the end of the year where each participant will do a short presentation and receive a certificate.

Sutapa worked through several obstacles to get this program started. These included finding the right school and then figuring out how to adapt the program to fit the school’s requirements. Sutapa believes in the value of this program and it would have not happened without her!

WTS–GNY Emerging Women Leaders On-Site Training series: At the same time she was developing and launching the NJ Transportation YOU program Sutapa took on the task of organizing the Newark based location for the Leadership series hosted by WTS–GNY. In addition to getting everything set up and making sure there were snacks and coffee, Sutapa has made sure that she was reaching out to let people know about the training. In particular, she has developed a relationship with NJ Transit that has opened the door to many women at NJ Transit who have regularly attended these sessions. Each time there have been a dozen or more participants. Sutapa makes sure all participants feel welcome and included. In addition to NJ Transit, participants from the consultant community and other agencies have joined in. It is an excellent opportunity for WTS to become better known and Sutapa has done a great job as the organizer and promoter.

LIRR President Gets Award from Prestigious Women’s Transportation Organization

LIRR President Patrick Nowakowski is the 2017 recipient of the WTS Honorable Ray LaHood Award, an honor that goes to a man who has taken an active role in attracting women to the transportation industry.

The award is presented by the Greater New York chapter of Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS), an international organization that fosters the professional development and advancement of women in this field. Nowakowski, who has been president of the LIRR since 2014, received the honor on Monday in Manhattan during the chapter’s annual meeting.

The award is named for the former secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The WTS first presented the award in 2016, and Nowakowski said he was honored to be its second recipient.

“I am fortunate to have a great team of people here at the Long Island Rail Road and also fortunate that a good number of them are female,” he told MTA Today, adding: “I don’t take credit for that. They’re the ones that are out there performing the job and they are the ones that make me look good.”

New York City Transit President Ronnie Hakim presented the award to Nowakowski. She told the gathering that he was an “avid champion” of promoting women to the top levels of the LIRR’s management.

Nowakowski holds a bachelor’s degree in engineering as well as a master’s in business administration. During his more than 40 years in transportation, he has worked at Conrail and SEPTA and has also served as executive director of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

He’s seen lots of change in the industry, particularly in the makeup of the workforce. “There are many more women in the business today than when I first started many, many years ago and it’s absolutely a good thing,” he said, adding that he has always encouraged his own two daughters – one of whom is an engineer – to pursue their career goals to the fullest.

Nowakowski noted that he was grateful to have been nominated for the award by his colleagues at the LIRR.

“I very much appreciate the fact that it was the nomination of my folks here that allowed me to receive the award so I’m very honored that they chose to do so,” he said.

The recognition has even stronger significance for Nowakowski because of its namesake. “In a prior job I did get to know Ray LaHood a little bit so I’m quite honored to receive an award with his name on it,” he added.

Five other awards were presented on Monday to women working in transportation in the chapter’s coverage area. The event’s keynote speaker was Stephanie Dawson, chief operating officer of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Courtesy of the MTA Today
Coast to Coast WTS Awards

Lian Duan, New York, writes: On January 23, Arup was awarded Employer of the Year by WTS Greater New York Chapter. Margaret Newman (New York) accepted the award on behalf of Arup at the chapter’s annual meeting. She was joined at the event by myself, Anne Patrone, Nina Harvey, Cassandra Leyden, Joanne Iddon, Leni Schwendinger, Vincent Riscica, Maggie Dong, and Kyle Fisher (all New York). This award recognizes the organization that is most committed to the enhancement of the transportation industry, promoting diversity, encouraging women to enter the transportation field, providing continuing education of employees and supporting the WTS organization.

On the West Coast, Nancy Mathison (San Francisco) was awarded the Member of the Year award for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. The award is in recognition of her “exemplary work, efforts, and commitment to the goals and growth of WTS.” Nancy co-chairs the WTS Mentoring Program, which she has grown over the last four years. WTS is an international organization dedicated to building the future of transportation through the global advancement of women. Arup has been a long-time supporter of WTS through annual sponsorship and Arup’s WTS members are active in the organization, currently serving or having served on a number of different committees. This year, Arup will also sponsor the WTS international conference in Brooklyn.

Thanks to Trent Lethco, Gillian Blake (both New York), and William Baumgardner (San Francisco) for their continued support of WTS. For questions or to get involved in your local chapter, please contact any of the active WTS participants: Lian Duan, Anne Patrone, Nina Harvey, Nancy Mathison, or Josephine Donde (Los Angeles).

MTA and PA Awards:
Emily Gallo announces the Innovative Transportation Solutions Award to NYC DOT

Thank you Jules for that introduction! Good evening everyone. Unfortunately, Commissioner Trottenberg was unable to make it tonight, but I am happy to be here to introduce this all-star DOT team that reimagined Queens Boulevard. Thank you to WTS-GNY for recognizing their amazing work.

Queens Boulevard was initially designed in the 1920s as a multi-lane highway with one goal: to let people drive to and from the Queensboro Bridge as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, this also created a dangerous and intimidating roadway that cut across communities.

In 2015, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the Vision Zero Great Streets program, with $100 million to transform Queens Boulevard into a safer and more inviting roadway for all New Yorkers.

The team came up with a bold and creative plan to tame this massive street and make it safer, greener and more livable. So far, we’ve redesigned a total of 2.5 miles from Woodside to Elmhurst. New Yorkers can now bike down Queens Boulevard safely—almost unimaginable just three years ago!

This project has been tremendously successful, and I am pleased to say that there have been zero fatalities on Queens Boulevard since 2015!

I am so proud of this great team, which is led by some incredible women. They stepped up to the plate and delivered an outstanding project and are so deserving of the WTS-GNY Innovative Transport Solutions Award.

Please join me in congratulating them: Ann Marie Doherty, Nichole Altmix, Nicole Garcia, Kessia De Leo, Olivia Gibbeson, Chiragi Amin (Shi-rah-ghee A-meen), Navjodh Singh (Nahv-joe Sing) and Lily Gordon-Koven (Ko-ven).

Thanks to your work, Queens Boulevard is greener, safer, and more livable. Congratulations!

NYC DOT Chief of Staff Emily Gallo

WTS Honors Assistant Chief Engineer Assistant Chief Engineer of Operations

Denise Berger received the Rosa Parks Diversity in Leadership Award from WTS-GNY’s Greater New York Chapter. The award recognizes Ms. Berger’s significant efforts to promote diversity and cultural awareness within the Port Authority. Last year, she established the Port Authority Women’s Council, an Employee Resource Group to empower and inspire women at the agency. Ms. Berger is a 29-year PA veteran and 20-year member of WTS – an international organization dedicated to “building the future of transportation through the global advancement of women.” Chief Operating Officer Stephanie Dawson did the honors of presenting the award to Ms. Berger at WTS-GNY’s annual meeting on January 23 at Club 101 in Midtown.

Courtesy PA News
The Festive Season

WTS-GNY members and non-members alike had a marvelous time at the chapter’s Holiday Party at Annie Moore’s Irish pub on December 8, 2016.

WTS-GNY President Polina Knaster (HDR) addressing the membership.

From left: WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Ella McLeod (NYCT); Debbie Chin, PTC LIRR.

From left: Malinda Foy, Director, Planning and Analysis, MTA Bridges and Tunnels; Marcia Shapiro, President, Marine Tiger Technologies; Beth DeAngelo, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff.

From left: Anne Patrone, Arup; WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Keri Cibelli (AKRF).

From left: Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director, NJTPA; Lisa DiTaranti, VHB.

From left: WTS-GNY Directors-At-Large Portia Henry (PANYNJ) and Aimee Jefferson (NJTPA).
A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

The list reflects the new members who joined the chapter up until press time.

Lucy Accardo  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Paul Adams  
HNTB Corporation

Allison Agliardo PE  
AECOM

Mahilet Amare  
MTA New York City Transit

Ina Arqimandriti  
PACO Group Inc.

Carla Artis  
Stantec

Evnice Baptiste  
MTA Long Island Railroad

Larisa Baronova  
MTA

Jennifer Benepe  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Susan Benjamin  
New Jersey Transit

Lavette Bennett  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Annie Bergelin  
B. Thayer Associates

Jennifer Bienemann  
HDR, Inc.

Gina Bigelow  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Christyn Binder  
B. Thayer Associates

Sandy Bishay  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

Martha Bogle  
HNTB Corporation

Ellen Botti  
NYC DOT

Pedro Bracamonte  
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology

Amy Bray  
Corgan

Carolyn Brazier  
Dewberry Engineers Inc

Jenny Brown  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Joyce Brown  
MTA

Sandy Castor  
NYS DOT

Shirley Cesario  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Joy Chiu  
Port Authority of NY & NJ

Kristin Chu  
HNTB Corporation

Laura Coley  
HNTB Corporation

Sarah Colker  
Parsons Corporation

Lisbeth Concho  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

Rana Constant  
MTA New York City Transit

Donnett Cox  
HNTB Corporation

Julie D’Orazio  
AECOM

Zoe Davidson  
MTA Capital Construction

MaryAllison Dees  
SUNY Maritime

Clarelle DeGraffe  
PATH

Krystal Delvalle  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Robert Dennison  
VHB Engineering

Caroline DeSantis  
The Ohio State University

Victoria Doan  
Stantec

Lauren Fink  
Systra Consulting

Ann Freedman  
Formerly of Port Authority of NY & NJ

Elana Freedman  
Hardesty and Hanover

Becca Freer  
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University

Alice Friedman  
NYC DOT

KellyAnne Gallagher  
MTA

Mary Gandolfo  
MTA Long Island Rail Road

Eileen Gee  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

Judith Giberstone  
MTA

Joseph Giulietti  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Anthony Greco  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Wilfredo Guzman  
Wt Guzman Consulting LLC

Cheryl Hamilton  
MTA New York City Transit

Glen Hayden  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Jennifer Heymach  
Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.

Samantha Marie Hijos  
IBI Group Gruzen Samton

Yvonne Hill-Donald  
MTA Metro-North Railroad

Loriann Hoffman  
MTA New York City Transit

Mind Horowitz  
Matrix New World Engineering

Athena Hutchins  
Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition

Laura Imperiale  
HNTB Corp.

Terra Ishee  
NYC DOT

Priya Jain  
Akins

Emily Jannace  
The Cooper Union

Laura Jardineau  
MTA New York City Transit

Harika Jayam  
Cornell University

Heather Jones  
HNTB Corporation

Patricia Jones  
MTA Long Island Railroad

Yvette Jones  
Edon Kariyannis

Jacobs

Eunice Kim  
Amtrak

Lee-Jung Kim  
AKRF, Inc.

Min Kim  
The Port Authority of NY & NJ

Kelly King  
HNTB Corp.

Frank Knowlton  
MTA New York City Transit

Lisa Kristiansen  
HNTB Corp.

Sanam Lakhwara  
NYU CUSP

Pallavi Lal  
ITK Engineering Services

Mary Lang  
YU & Associates, Inc.

Minah Lee  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

Allison Lester  
MTA Metro North Railraod

Megan Lisbon  
Stantec

Rongfang Liu  
NJIT

Ivoire Lloyd  
Systra Engineering

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Dawn Lopez  
PACO Technologies, Inc.  
Deanna Lu  
B. Thayer Associates  
Allison Luongo  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Erin Lybeck  
B. Thayer Associates  
Jeff Malamy  
NYC DOT  
Mark Mannix  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
Shravya Markandeya  
VHB  
Patricia Masi  
B. Thayer Associates  
Mary Anne Moffett  
NYC DOT  
Nasim Moghaddasi  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Sandra Montalvo  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
Jilla Moro  
MTA  
Priyasri Murugesan  
MTA  
Susan Nemetz  
Scheidt & Bachmann  
Christina Nickolas  
MTA New York City Transit  
Nicole Pace  
Stokes Creative Group, Inc.  
Mary Kate Panella  
Traction Power Systems  
Yasmine Pessar  
Student  
Janet Piatkowski  
PACO Technologies, Inc.  
Marlene Pissott  
InGroup, Inc.  
Andrea Ramos  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
Kim Rancourt  
NYC DOT  
Yelesa Rayser  
Sustainable Engineering Services, P.C.  
Inez Reyes-Mirabal  
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Fiona Robe  
MTA  
Robert Rodriguez  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
Maddalena Romano  
NYC DOT  
Ziona Rubin  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
Maureen Rutter  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
Sean Ryan  
MTA  
Nicole Ryan  
STV Inc.  
Clare Sammon  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
Lisa Santoro  
Systra Consulting  
Susan Sarch  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
Yelena Shayer  
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Bonnie Shepherd  
Systra Consulting  
Andrea Sherman  
New Jersey Turnpike Authority  
Kate Speir  
HNTB Corp.  
Elizabeth Steiner  
MBTA  
Jami Spordone  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
Danielle Stewart  
Port Authority of NY and NJ  
Natnapin Tangpipith  
STV Inc.  
Elizabeth Thompson  
VHB  
Esther Torres  
MTA New York City Transit  
Lisa Tran  
MTA  
Cynthia Urbanik  
New Jersey Turnpike Authority  
Kristen Van Gilst  
Architecture Student  
Justin Vonashek  
MTA Metro-North Rail  
Nathalie Waebroek  
IBI Group Gruzen Samton  
Shuo Wang  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Johanna Weinstock  
BRT Planning International, LLC  
Carmen Williams  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
Michael Wojnar  
Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo  
Theresa Woods  
HNTB Corp.  
Elizabeth Wooton  
NYC DOT  
Maggie Yang  
Stellar Services, Inc.  
Megan Young  
Hardesty & Hanover  
Hong Yuan  
HDR, Inc.  
Anni Zhu  
Port Authority of NY & NJ
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To join WTS-GNY’s mailing list go to WTSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/GREATERNEWYORK.